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Redevelopment Board Minutes 02-26-2001

Minutes of February 26, 2001

Members Present: Roland Chaput
Nora Mann
Ed Tsoi
Barry Faulkner

In addition: Alan McClennen, Jr., Secretary ex officio
Kevin O'Brien, Asst. Dir. of Planning & Comm. Dev.
Les Masterson, Editor, Arlington Advocate

8:00 p.m. – Arlington Redevelopment Board convened on the second floor conference room of the annex of the Robbins Memorial Town Hall to meet with the Trustees of the Dallin Museum regarding the status of the museum at the Jefferson Cutter House.

Mr. James McGough, Ms. Gerry Tremblay, Linda Olsen, Gerry Ritchie, David Formanek, Peg Spengler, David Walkinshaw, and Maria Dejona were present.

Gerry Tremblay presented a power point presentation to the Board outlining the significant expansion of the museum since it has occupied the Jefferson Cutter House. Mr. David Formanek presented a model and discussed the materials that would be in the fourth gallery. The trustees requested that the Board vote to allow them to continue to occupy the Jefferson Cutter House.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Tsoi, seconded by Ms. Mann, that the arrangement to the Dallin Museum be continued to occupy the Jefferson Cutter House be continued; unanimous vote in favor.

8:30 p.m. – Discussion concerning the status of Reed's Brook: Mr. O'Brien presented several site plans to the Board describing alternative ways of moving trash around the site to deal with the detention pond and other matters. He indicated that based on the choices prepared by Metcalf & Eddy and Carol Johnson and Associates, he felt that the proposed landscaping plan should remain as originally conceived even though the hills will be somewhat higher and the playing fields will be higher in relation to Summer Street.

Mr. O'Brien pointed out that there is a warrant article in the Annual Town Meeting which will provide the Town Meeting with the opportunity to discuss the proposal to deed the property at 36 Wright Street to the Housing Corporation of Arlington. This represents a change in financing plan of the project because it will not be sold at the estimated value of \$200,000.

Mr. O'Brien provided information on the proposed contract with Metcalf & Eddy.

Motion: Moved by Ms. Mann, seconded by Mr. Tsoi, that the contract amendment be approved; unanimous vote in favor.

9:10 p.m. – Discussion of Symmes Hospital: John Maher, Charlie Lyons, and Steve Andrew from the Chamber were present to provide the Board with information about the desire to acquire Symmes Hospital. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed by the Board and those present that acquisition of the Symmes Hospital property was critical to the betterment of the Town of Arlington. Motion: Moved by Mr. Tsoi, seconded by Ms. Mann, that the Board support the proposed acquisition of Symmes Hospital; unanimous vote in favor. The Board also noted that there were unique

opportunities present with the acquisition: First, the property can be redeveloped with a positive cost/benefit to the Town. Second, all open space on the site will be protected. Three, consideration can be given to the provision of affordable housing. Four, medical services can be provided where possible and feasible. Five, there are development benefits to the Town as a whole.

10:20 p.m. – Adjournment: Moved by Mr. Tsoi, seconded by Ms. Mann, to adjourn; unanimous vote in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan McClennen, Jr.